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18 February 1976

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE

MEMORANDUM FOR THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Draft Minutes of the 18 February 1976
Committee on Foreign Intelligence

1. The first meeting of the Committee on Foreign Intelligence (CFI) was held at 1530 on 18 February at East Building, 2430 E Street, N. W. Director Bush was in the chair; Deputy Secretary of Defense Ellsworth and Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs Hyland, the other members of the CFI attended. Also in attendance were LTG Samuel Wilson and E. H. Knoche of the DCI's Intelligence Community Staff and Richard Lehman, an assistant to the Director.

2. The Chairman opened the meeting with observations and suggestions as reflected in the attached talking points. He covered each point and invited the other members to react.

3. Mr. Ellsworth commended the Director's remarks, saying that he welcomes the DCI's acting as a Chairman of the Board with respect to national intelligence. DoD leaders, he said, have long felt that a strong national perspective is necessary for intelligence leadership. Noting the charge in the February Executive Order calling for the CFI to control budgets and resource allocation, Mr. Ellsworth said it will be important to work out arrangements to coordinate budget and resource cycles. For the CFI to get its job done, the strongest possible staff will be required and well-qualified DoD personnel are available for assignment to the IC Staff, which will serve the CFI.

4. Mr. Ellsworth noted the Executive Order requirement that the CFI establish policy priorities for collection and production of national intelligence. He is not entirely sure what this means and the subject will require further discussion. The Deputy Secretary believes the CFI will want to establish collection-tasking and production-tasking functions with strong consumer involvement.

5. As for the CFI responsibility to set "management policy" for national programs, Mr. Ellsworth noted that no one is sure what this means.

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6. At this point, Mr. Bush referred to the explicit point that he and the CFI are relieved of responsibility for tactical intelligence resources. Mr. Ellsworth responded pointing out there are overlaps between national and tactical intelligence; the extent of overlap is unclear. There are various dimensions to the problem, including the question of making resource presentations to Congress and justifying budgets. He saw the problem as susceptible to being worked out. Mr. Ellsworth commented that the Secretary of Defense and Joint Chiefs feel strongly that the future will be marked by growing requirements by field commanders for nationally-acquired intelligence information. Mr. Ellsworth said he is prepared to assign DoD personnel to work with the DCI's representatives on this problem.

7. Mr. Ellsworth asked who would preside over the CFI in the DCI's absence. After some discussion of this, there was agreement that for the time being this would be the DDCI who becomes Acting DCI when the DCI is not at hand. (Chairman Bush referred to plans for there to be two Deputies -- one for CIA and one for the Intelligence Community and when the latter is called for by law and Presidentially-appointed, the Community deputy would likely be the one to chair the CFI in the DCI's absence.) There was agreement on the need to insure the best possible candidate for the Community deputy position and Mr. Ellsworth and Mr. Hyland were asked to provide Mr. Bush with some names to consider -- and as soon as possible.

8. Mr. Bush asked if each of the two CFI members will designate someone to attend CFI meetings if they are absent. Each said they would.

9. Mr. Ellsworth urged that the DCI, in his Community role, separate himself perceptibly and conceptually from CIA and Langley. Mr. Hyland observed that a downtown location for CFI business would save him valuable time as compared with travel to and from Langley. After some discussion, it was agreed that the IC Staff would work with administrative authorities and in due course present a plan to the CFI on relocation of the IC Staff and establishment of CFI meeting facilities. It was agreed that any such plan will provide office space for CFI members as well as the Staff.

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10. The Chairman agreed to Mr. Ellsworth's request that arrangements permit that personal representatives of CFI members be accredited to the IC Staff.

11. Mr. Hyland noted that the IC Staff will be reviewing NSCID's and DCID's to insure compatability with the Executive Order. He urged that a new series of CFI Directives (CFID) be issued beginning with those which can direct temporary arrangements pending development of more permanent machinery and procedures in the future.

12. Mr. Hyland foresaw an IC Staff which would concentrate on three primary areas: budgets, collection, and production evaluation. He emphasized that it is exclusively the DCI's prerogative to arrange for the production of national intelligence. Mr. Hyland observed, however, that he believes it a matter of CFI concern to assess the value and utility of the intelligence product. In this respect, he noted that the National Security Council will conduct semi-annual reviews of intelligence and he urged that someone on the staff be designated to arrange materials and issues to be considered by the NSC.

13. There was some discussion of the OMB role in regard to CFI business. The feeling was that the CFI would make its decisions on resource matters and advise the President and OMB concurrently. Mr. Ellsworth noted the differing practices between DoD and the IC Staff in regard to OMB and urged development of common and agreed approaches.

14. There was general agreement that there is utility in considering amalgamation with the IC Staff of the key staff elements of the COMIREX, SIGINT and Human Resources Committees of what has been USIB, all of this in terms of providing maximum support to the CFI and its attention to national intelligence programs.

15. It was agreed that the CFI would meet frequently at the outset, the next meeting to take place at 1500 on 25 February. The CFI will consider draft directives at that time and further discuss matters of concern.

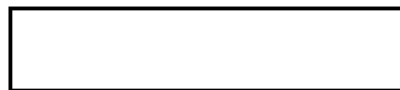
16. It was agreed that the IC Staff would undertake to develop agreement on an appropriate program and budget cycle (recognizing the sanctity of the DoD cycle) that will permit adequate time for CFI consideration

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of programs and budgets. In the process, definition of those programs under CFI purview will be made, all of this with an eye to providing the CFI with arrangements for its approval.

17. CFI members at this point met briefly in executive session, the meeting concluding at 1700.

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E. H. Knoche

Attachment:
Talking Points

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Talking Points

Agenda

CFI Meeting

19 February 1976

1. Fundamental tasks of CFI; among other things, E.O. requires CFI to:
 - control budget preparation and resource allocation for NFIP
 - establish policy priorities for collection and production of national intelligence
 - establish policy for management of NFIP
2. The DCI's Intelligence Community Staff, headed by one of two deputies to the DCI, to provide support to CFI.
 - current thinking as to type to be named to be the Community deputy,
 - need to examine structure and composition of IC Staff to accomplish its job. (Have asked IC Staff for ideas CFI can consider; at a minimum, it behooves us all to see to it ICS is strongly staffed as a Community (not just a DCI) asset.)
3. Currently lean to two geographically separate DCI offices -- one at Langley for CIA business, another in town for Community activities.
4. Production of national intelligence is something separate from CFI concerns; currently giving thought to how to arrange new and effective organization to succeed USIB.
 - In the meantime, will continue USIB and most of its subordinate components to avoid sudden break in efficiency.
5. In terms of using the best and most appropriate USIB expertise to augment IC Staff in supporting CFI, am giving thought to merging IC Staff with USIB's COMIREX (imagery), SIGINT, and Human Resources (Humint) Committees.
 - These Committees set priorities for collection and processing of data related to NFIP, the programs of concern to CFI.
 - Merging of these Committee Staffs with IC Staff may permit some reduction of IC Staff size.
6. In addition to those charges given to the CFI in the E.O., believe it will be necessary to insure CFI collaborates and consults on other matters of major concern. Among these, all in need of improvement, are:
 - strategic warning (this should always be one of our prime concerns)
 - crisis management (finding better ways to relate policy concerns and intelligence data)
 - evaluation of the Intelligence Community's performance, from requirements to collection to production. (Current evaluation processes are in their infancy and need improvement. IC Staff currently exploring ways to improve those processes.)

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7. Without in any way interfering with DoD budget cycles, we need to devise a cycle that permits adequate time for CFI to consider NIFP programs and budgets. IC Staff has suggested such an arrangement. (Attached)
 - Suggest IC Staff and DoD associates consider the ICS suggestions and see what can be agreed.
8. E.O. calls for redrafting of NSCID's and DCID's within 90 days to be consistent with E.O.'s.
 - Suggest IC Staff chair a group to consider NSCID's. Reps to be supplied by each CFI member. Alternatives include one "omnibus" NSCID or amendment of each now in existence.
 - IC Staff will chair a group of reps from DSD(I) and each of the current USIB principals to amend DCID's, subject to DCI approval. (This is DCI business; not directly related to CFI).